Table 1. Shoreline categories in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System and their defining parameters (modified from Riggs and Ames, 2003).

SHORELINE CATEGORIES	SHORELINE SUB-TYPE	DEFINING PARAMETERS
Sediment Bank Shorelines	Bluff	Greater than 20 feet
	High bank	5-20 feet
	Low bank	Less than 5 feet
Organic Shorelines	Swamp forest	Freshwater riverine floodplains and freshwater pocosins
	Marsh	Fresh, brackish, and salt waters
Combination Shorelines	Sediment bank with cypress fringe	
	Sediment bank with marsh fringe	
	Sediment bank with fringe of log and shrub debris	
	Low sediment bank with stumps	
	Swamp forest with strandplain beach	
	Marsh with strandplain beach	
	Human-modified shoreline	
Back-Barrier Shorelines	Overwash barriers	Sand fans and platform marshes
	Complex barriers	Sediment banks and organic banks
	Inlet	Flood-tide deltas

Sand that forms the beach is derived from erosion of the adjacent sediment bank (Figure 3 A, B). Organic shorezones consist of water-tolerant flora, including grasses (e.g., smooth cordgrass and salt meadow cordgrass: *Spartina alterniflora* and *Spartina patens*), rushes (e.g., black needlerush: *Juncus roemerianus*), shrubs (e.g., marsh elder: *Iva frutescens*) that grow at the land/water interface and are capable of withstanding extended periods of flooding by water with variable salinities. In freshwater areas, trees (e.g., bald cypress and water tupulo: *Taxodium distichum* and *Nyssa aquatica*) form extensive swamp forest wetlands. Estuarine marsh shorezones occur throughout most of the estuarine system (Figure 3 C), but swamp forest

Figure 3. Photographs show four different types of shorezones within the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system (Riggs and Ames, 2003): A) high sediment bank; B) low sediment bank being converted to a freshwater marsh; C) platform marsh shoreline retreating into a swamp forest; and D) pocosin swamp forest receding shoreline common in fresh water portions of the APES region.